

REMARKS

Independent Claim 54, the only independent claim under examination, has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over published U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0026851 in view of published U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0052711. For the reasons that follow, Applicants traverse the rejection of amended Claim 54 on these grounds.

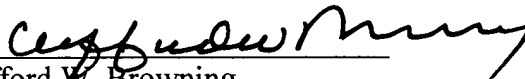
Amended Claim 54 now specifies that the inspection module comprises a first transport cylinder for transporting the sheets with a front side facing a first inspection device, which first inspection device inspects the front side of the sheets while being transported by the first transport cylinder and supported against a circumference of the first transport cylinder, and a second transport cylinder for transporting the sheets with a rear side facing a second inspection device, which second inspection device inspects the rear side of the sheets while being transported by the second transport cylinder and supported against a circumference of the second transport cylinder. In addition, amended Claim 54 now specifies that the first and the second inspection devices are arranged outside of the casing of the first and second transport cylinders, respectively. These features are clearly revealed by Figure 2 and paragraphs 95 and 96 of the present specification.

Regarding U.S. 2004/0026851, Applicants still maintain that this document does not use three transport cylinders as is presently claimed, but only two (see Fig. 10, ref. 122 and 123). Furthermore, in this document the inspection devices operating by reflection are arranged inside of the casings of the transport cylinders (see Fig. 3, ref. 34 and 37) and not outside of the casings of the transport cylinders as in the present invention. Finally, the first inspection device 122 inspects the rear side, and not the front side, of the sheets and the second inspection device inspects the front side, and not the rear side, of the sheets.

Therefore, the document U.S. 2004/0026851 clearly does not reveal the subject matter of the claimed invention of amended Claim 54.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request entry of amended Claim 54, followed by an allowance of all claims 54-107, as amended, over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted:

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